

Iron County Register

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E. D. AKE, EDITOR.

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ARE the Christian Endeavorers, also, "traitors" and "copperheads"?

"Our country, right or wrong," is a good motto for a military despotism, but not for a self-governing people.

ONE of the "Young People" in the *Mississippi Valley Democrat* asks, "What is the longest verse in the Bible?" But the editor answers not—too busy, no doubt.

JOE WHEELER, who voted for a bond issue and was made a Major-General by McKinley, is going to the Philippines to find out how many troops are going to be needed over there.

ONE Dr. Lowry, a dentist, was recently mulcted in \$25,000 damages for very gross indignity to a woman, but the State Dental Association has "exonerated" him. There is no limit to the protecting aegis of Professional Ethics.

THE editor of the *North Missourian* in taking charge of the paper makes the following apology: "Attention has been called to a blemish upon our record—that of a term in the legislature—but we can offer as an extenuating circumstance, that when an attempt was made to send us back again we were acquitted by a very large majority."

AFTER the United States shall have subdued the Filipinos and given them public schools, the chapters of American history relative to the Revolutionary War will have to be omitted from the curriculum. Else Washington, Jefferson, and all those turbulent fellows, will breed discontent and rebellion in our imperial acquisitions. Shall the public peace be endangered for a sentiment?

FRANCE is a military Republic—just the sort of government our plutocratic patriots would like to see established in the United States. A good deal of stress is laid on the "military honor" which scorns meanness and falsehood; but it didn't stand in the way of vituperation, envy and perjury in the Dreyfus case—a disgrace to humanity. After all, shoulder-straps and brass buttons won't change a liar and a thief into an honest man.

ACCORDING to the McKinley idea of prosperity New York City is the most prosperous spot on the American continent, and yet in that town sixty thousand paupers are fed by public charity, to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands who barely keep soul and body together by their utmost exertions. The maintenance of "the national honor" costs misery, starvation and death, but it gives a high-sounding name to legalized dishonor and robbery.

If the holder of a bond changes its designation by erasing the number of dollars named in it and substitutes a larger sum, he is a forger, and the penitentiary awaits him. If he can by trickery or bribery get the law-makers to change, not the number of dollars, but the character of the dollars, making them double the value they were at the time the bond was issued, he is a financier; and if the man who has to pay the dollars objects, he is a repudiator, an anarchist, and everything that is vile. The maintenance of "the national honor" enforces a singular code of morals.

THE difference between a government of, by and for the people—even when it is in some sense different from our notion of the real thing—and a government "by divine right" is exemplified in the case of the French Republic. The descendants of the titled oppressors of the people still affect to be "Princes," "Dukes," "Counts," etc., and look down with contempt upon the *canaille*, and strut in their old haunts in security. Reverse conditions, and every believer in popular government would either have to muzzle himself or leave his country. Right flourishes with magnanimity; wrong exists by violence, cruelty and oppression.

THAT "round robin" declaring that the military situation at Manila is much worse than the censored news depicts it; that the dispatches sent to the various papers, after the military scissors and blue pencil had done their perfect work, were tissues of falsehood by half-truth; that even the hospital and health reports are unreliable when not suppressed;—said "round robin" is signed by three Associated Press agents, the agent of the Scripps-McKee Association, and ten newspaper correspondents, among them Messrs. Oscar K. Davis and P. G. McDonnell of the *New York Sun*, and Richard Little of the *Chicago Tribune*. What! Can't the loyal newspapers rid their staffs of traitors and copperheads? God bless us! If this seditious spirit is not subdued the common people may learn all about the false pretense and scoundrelism of this Philippine war—something they have no right to inquire after, of course.

THE REGISTER notes with pleasure the change put on by its neighboring contemporary, the *Jackson Cash-Book*: from an eight-column folio to a six-column quarto; from a four-page to an eight page; from thirty-two columns to forty-eight columns. And other improvements still further enhancing its value and good appearance. While the REGISTER has not always agreed with the *C.B.* in regard to matters public, we have always recognized Bro. McGuire's honesty of purpose and fearlessness in advocacy. His paper is a credit to its community and its success is fully deserved.

GOV. DYER of Rhode Island writes Gov. Sayers of Texas that he cannot attend the anti-trust conference because he has not yet formed an opinion on the subject of trusts—*Bossier (La.) Banner*.

Why doesn't the Governor of Texas give the Governor of Rhode Island time to think? Or, rather, to formulate some sort of specious defense of the iniquitous creatures of the Great American System of Protection? It takes time and thought to do this; but the Wild Westerners who jump at the conclusion that because a thing is wrong it ought to be denounced and combatted are brutal in their haste, and the Governor of Texas ought to feel crushed under the quiet contempt of the Governor of Rhode Island.

THE REGISTER has no patience with a so-called Democrat who can see nothing wrong in the imperialistic and military tendency of the present administration. So clear and unmistakable are the lines of self-government and liberty as laid down by the founders of the Republic that he is purblind who sees them not. As the greatest composer would be but wasting his godlike genius were his divine concord of sweet sounds made to appeal to the deaf, so are the strongest reasoning and the most potent truths wasted upon the American who can see in militarism no danger to the liberties of his country—no wrong in the oppression and murder of an unoffending people. A Republican may be so blinded by prejudice as to endorse anything his political opponent denounces; but the so-called Democrat has not even such halting excuse. We say "so-called," because one might as well talk of a white blackbird as to call a Democrat the man who repudiates everything Democracy stands for.

It is not, nor has it been, the desire of the REGISTER to make the Philippine war a partisan question. It ought not to be debated with a view to partisan advantage, but from the standpoint of right and justice—which is that of patriotism—that, and that only. Let every American citizen ask himself the question, For what reason are we sacrificing the lives of our soldiers and killing the natives of those far-away islands? The answer, to justify the deeds being done, ought to be clear and satisfying beyond cavil. If such answer does not spring spontaneously to the query, there is great wrong somewhere, and all the power, glory and advantage to be gained from the bloody strife cannot cover it up. On the contrary, if it is a righteous war—if it is waged for the perpetuation of freedom and of the principles which call into action the ennobling attributes of the patriot—then let the starry banner carry conviction to the world through every trial and sacrifice. When Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila bay his victory was no more gladly hailed at home than by the insurgent Filipinos warring for their release from the unbearable tyranny of Spain, as our forefathers had long ago contended against a less cruel master. Dewey was greeted as a deliverer, as had been DeGrasse when he sailed into Chesapeake bay, and great were the rejoicings of the islanders. Suddenly everything was changed and the late allies became deadly foes. The bunkoed (or rascally) Peace Commission at Paris bought from Spain her doubtful and contested title to the Philippines. It is the first instance on record where a peace was conquered and the proud soul of the defeated foe saluted with a gratuity—for a gratuity, despite the pretense of sale, was the \$20,000,000 taken from the American tax-payer and transferred to the pockets of the needy Don. Had the proposition been submitted to popular vote, not a corporal's guard of self-respecting Americans could have been rallied to its support. The Philippines! Who wanted them or needed them? If they to-morrow were sunk by earthquake into the depths of the bottomless sea, would the United States be the poorer? Yet we have bought them "with a great price"—not only with \$20,000,000 of the bright gold held emblematic of "the national honor," but at the sacrifice of our belief in manhood sovereignty and of all the principles dear to the founders of the Republic. Is not this too big a price?—would it not be too great a price were the island mountains of pure gold capped with precious stones? We are killing the Filipinos, burning their homes, destroying their towns, laying waste their lands—for what? Because we bought the bloody lash from their late taskmaster, and the brown backs of the slaves must be made to know the weight of the new hand that now wields it? Just to show



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them how much bigger and stronger we are than they? We confess we have been unable to find another reason, and if our Expansionist friends have a better we would like them to make it known. From all that we have been able to glean from the censored dispatches that began with the military occupation of the islands, to us it seems the war is cruel, unnecessary and sinful. That to a people professing a belief in the enunciations of the Declaration of Independence, it is the very antithesis to righteousness; and that, as no nation, any more than an individual, can be guilty of crime without sooner or later paying the penalty, we are laying up for our children, if not for ourselves, misery and suffering, penitence and humiliation. The God of War feeds upon the souls of his subjects, and he will demand and receive full return for every blood-spattered eagle, every tear-stained star, that shall mark the sufferings of an unhappy people striving to maintain their "unalienable rights."

The Military Spirit the Curse of Freedom.

IRONTON, Mo., July 18, 1899.

Ed. Register—The first duty of the patriot is to stop this war in the tropics. The second, to get rid of its consequences. To obliterate the baneful military spirit, now rampant, the curse of all peoples. There is no such foe to popular liberty as a general diffusion of military tastes and habits. The tendency of society is, when it ceases to rely upon reason, to govern by violence. Those who have the sword in hand almost invariably refuse to wait for the slow operation of argument. No troublesome contradiction, no unwelcome truth, will arrest the progress of him who uses the *ratio ultima regum*, and mows down all obstacles with the scythe of power. Hence the enemies of freedom always delight in war. Not satisfied with fighting foreign nations and keeping up an army in times of peace, they seek, once the masses have been corrupted, to render the whole nation military. Having great armies at their back, they haughtily bid defiance to the unarmed philosopher who brings into the field truth without a spear and argument unbacked by artillery.

The effort to render a whole people military is always the work of designing knaves and tyrants. The military rage always tramples on liberty, and then despotism, triumphant, marches through the land with drums beating and colors flying. We are told "we are fast becoming a great military people." Then we are fast becoming an enslaved people. There never was a nation that was not debased by war, except in cases where the people rushed to arms to defend their altars and their homes from the ruthless footsteps of the invader—never was a military people that was free, and never will be. We

have to thoroughly purge ourselves of this military virus; before we can ever become a free and virtuous people again. A war of aggression and plunder has brutalized the public sense, and familiarized it to theft and murder, to such a degree that it will take half a century to eradicate the poison.

But for the opportunity of wielding despotic power, which the war furnishes its managers, and but for the enormous gains it brings to the few friends of the Administration, the conflict would have been over long ago; indeed it would never have begun. To prolong it, an effort is industriously and systematically made to cultivate a taste and admiration for military life.

War is good for the speculator, the contractor, the money-shaver, the adventurer, and the soldier of fortune; but it is Hades, seven times heated, for everybody else.

RUSTICS.

School Board Proceedings.

Board met, having been postponed from July 5th by common consent and all members being notified of the change, with C. S. Russell, Vice-President, in the chair, and directors W. T. Gay, W. H. Fisher and R. L. Carty, present; W. B. Newman and Ira A. Marshall, absent.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Committee on repairs report work going on on colored school house and ask for more time.

Moved and carried that committee be given more time to complete work to report.

Moved and carried that committee on repairs have such work done on the brick building as they may deem necessary and report at next meeting.

Committee on foreign scholars report all tuitions paid and money turned over to treasurer, credit having been given Mrs. Wm. A. Fletcher for ten dollars as per her tax receipt for 1898.

Treasurer's report shows that he received during the year \$5551.89 and paid out \$2359.41, leaving on hand June 30, 1899, \$3192.48. This was found to be correct, and on motion, was approved, after the county clerk certify the same.

Mr. Gay being nominated for treasurer for the next year, it was moved and carried that he be elected by acclamation; the vote carried.

Moved and carried that the secretary draw warrants for \$20 each, for the treasurer and secretary for services for the past year.

Adjourned to meet first Wednesday in August.

C. S. RUSSELL, Vice-President.

E. T. ELGAN, Secretary.

Capt. William Astor Chanler, Congressman from New York, is the president of the *New York Star*, which is giving away a Forty Dollar Bicycle daily, as offered by their advertisement in another column. Hon. Amos J. Cummings, M. C., Col. Asa Bird Gardner, District Attorney of New York, ex-Governor Hogg, of Texas, and Col. Fred Feigl, of New York, are among the well known names in their Board of Directors.

The White Rabbit—Grandhomme & Giovanoni.

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